

**MARCH 14, 2022**

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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**SOMALILAND PRESIDENT MUSE BIHI ABDI VISITS U.S.**

Somaliland President Muse Bihi Abdi, accompanied by several of his cabinet ministers and prominent business leaders, begins today a visit to the United States. In consultations with policymakers and civil society throughout the week, the President will discuss regional security, democracy promotion and trade and investment opportunities in the Horn of Africa.

Somaliland is a strategic region for the U.S., particularly as China and Russia seek to expand commercial, diplomatic and defense ties in Africa. This will be the first visit to the U.S. by a Somaliland head of state since President Mohamed Mohamoud Silanyo came to Washington, DC in 2013.

President Bihi will outline his goals for this visit during a [keynote speech at the Heritage Foundation](#) at 11:00 am titled, "The Great Promise of Closer U.S.-Somaliland Ties."

The Republic of Somaliland first gained independence and international recognition in 1960, and soon thereafter joined with the former Italian Somalia to establish the state Somali Republic. Upon dissolving this failed union in 1991, Somaliland reclaimed its national sovereignty and has maintained a distinct and democratic government and economy and a secure and functioning nation in an otherwise volatile environment. Somaliland held local and parliamentary elections in May 2021 amidst COVID-19 and has recently inaugurated a \$442 million port in Berbera, which is expected to facilitate trade equivalent to nearly 27 percent of GDP and 75 percent of total trade in Somaliland.

***Please submit interview requests or media inquiries to [joshua.gross@fgh.com](mailto:joshua.gross@fgh.com)***

**WHO:** Muse Bihi Abdi, President of the Republic of Somaliland

**WHEN:** Monday, March 14, 2022, 11:00 am

**WHERE:** The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington DC 20002-4999

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